



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



231916

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Mr. Jason El-Zein  
Emergency Response Branch, Chief  
U.S. EPA, Room 216  
9311 Groh Road  
Grosse Ile, Mi. 48138-1967

December 16, 2003

**Re: 750 West Third Street Drums**

Dear Mr. El-Zein:

Ohio EPA requests U.S. EPA's assistance in conducting a potential time-critical removal action of 70 drums and hundreds of military type batteries containing suspected hazardous wastes. These drums and batteries were found abandoned behind a building and between and under the CSX Railroad bridge located at 750 West third Street in Cincinnati, Ohio. Samples were collected from several of the drums and a couple of batteries. Field screening of the liquids in the batteries indicated they had a pH of 13 or above.

Information obtained from approximately 5 drums indicated that they contained cadmium fibers from the types of batteries found on-site. These fibers looked very similar to the fibers in the batteries. The other drums contained what appeared to be several different waste streams, however, all were solids. Some drums contained metal grindings or shavings, a white powdery substance, and a hard substance. Analytical results confirmed that the batteries are characteristic hazardous waste for pH ( pH>13) and at least five drums were TCLP hazardous for cadmium. The rest of the analytical results indicated that the contents in the other drums sampled did not contain hazardous waste.

The property where the drums and batteries are located belong to the City of Cincinnati and CSX Railroad. It is an area designed for redevelopment by the City of Cincinnati and the Belvedere Group. Due to the old mattresses and chairs found in this area, it was determined to be an area that homeless people frequent. The area also appears to be a commercial/industrial area. Warehouses and offices are located across the street.

It was determined from Leonard and Sidney Deutch and Deutch Enterprises, former owners of the buildings, that the drums came from the building located at 737 West Third St. It is my understanding that Deutch Enterprises sold the buildings and business to Mainline Recycling Co. LLC. in 1998 but foreclosed on the property and took it back in 2002 when Mainline defaulted on the real estate loan. In September 2003, Deutch sold the 17 acre property to Queensgate South Real Estate, LLC/Belvedere Construction Co. for redevelopment with the City of Cincinnati.

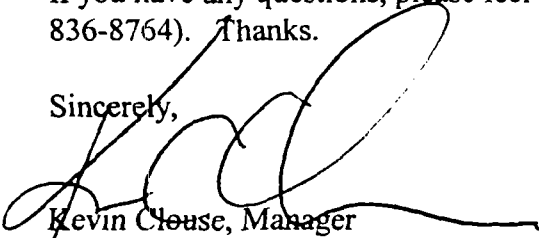
Bob Taft, Governor  
Jennette Bradley, Lieutenant Governor  
Christopher Jones, Director

On October 30, 2003, the building at 737 West Third Street was evaluated to determine if any drums were left in the building. No drums were observed in the building but similar residues from the drums and batteries were observed. Five samples were collected and only one was determined to contain hazardous waste. This sample, which included fibers from the military batteries, was hazardous for TCLP cadmium. The fibers were found throughout the building along with remnants of battery casings. Approximately 4 intact batteries were found in the building.

Please note that the Southern Ohio Task Force is currently conducting a criminal investigation regarding this illegal disposal/dumping of solid and hazardous wastes. It would be appreciated that a member of this investigation be contacted prior to any actions taken by your crew.

A sampling report with photos and the analytical results are attached to this letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Scott Shane at our Groveport Office (614-836-8764). Thanks.

Sincerely,



Kevin Clouse, Manager  
Emergency Response/Office of Special Investigations

cc: Harry Sarvis, Manager, DHWM, CO  
Harold O'Connell, DHWM, SWDO  
Scott Shane, OSI, CO

**Field Report**

750 West Third St. Drums

Hamilton County/SWDO

October 8, 2003

Bonner

On October 8, 2003, Ron Bonner, Scott Shane, OEPA, OSI, Special Agent Brent Kirkpatrick, BCI, Special Agent Victor Dvorak, USEPA, CID and Rick Jones, Cincinnati FD processed a crime scene of 72 drums. Two of drums did not appear to be associated with the dumping. Along with the drums were several hundred military type batteries. Photos of the scene were taken and samples from the drums were collected by OSI.

**Photo Log**

Photo #1



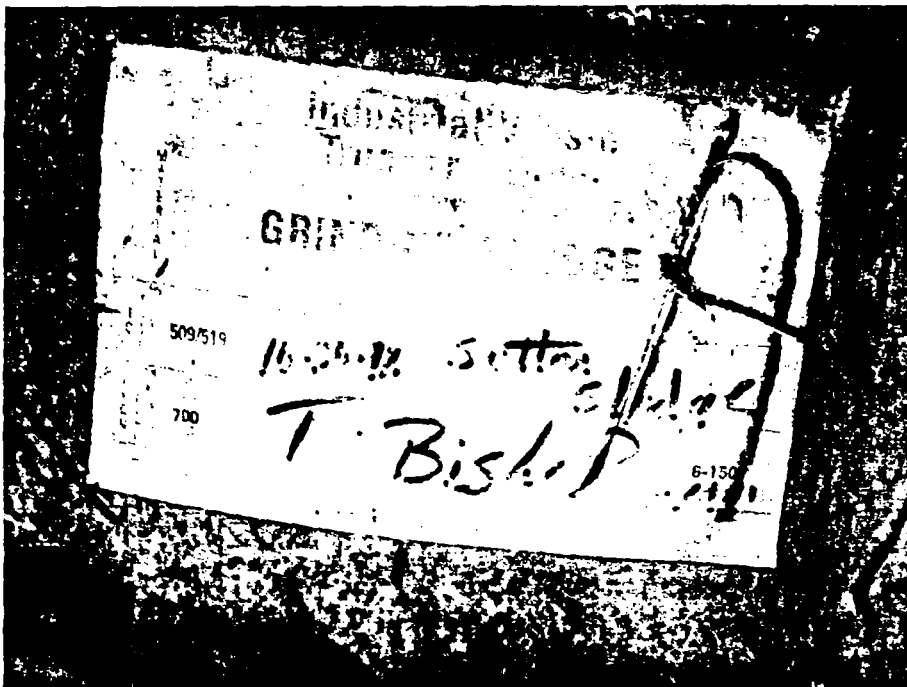
Pile of military type batteries behind the building south of the railroad tracks

Photo #2



Eight drums under railroad track with some contents spilled on the ground

Photo #3



Label from a drum in Photo #2

Photo #4



Eleven drums under railroad tracks

Photo #5



Eleven drums behind building south of railroad tracks

Photo #6



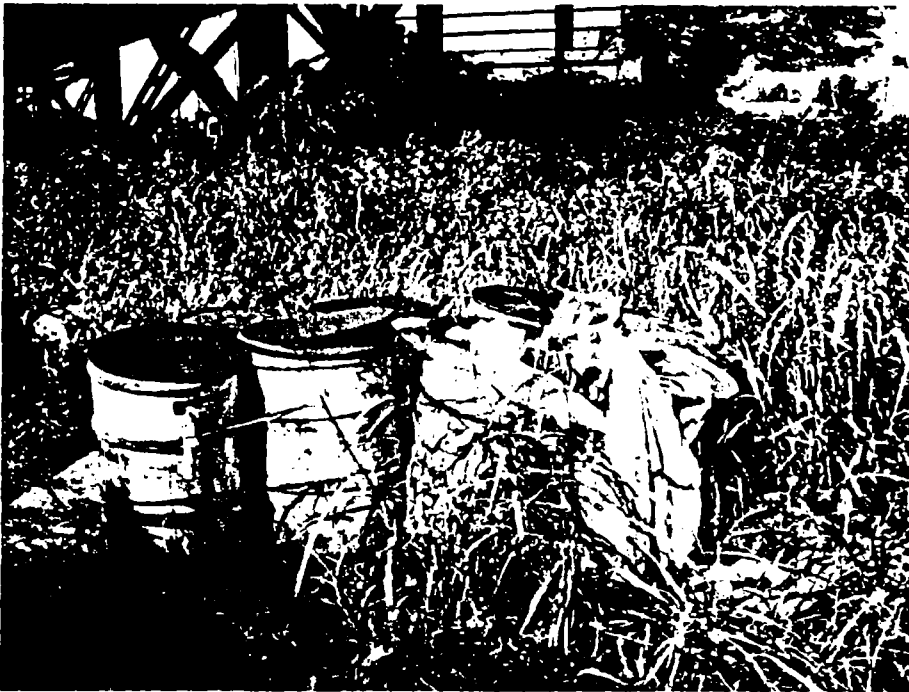
Eight drums under railroad tracks

Photo #7



Fifteen drums under railroad tracks

Photo #8



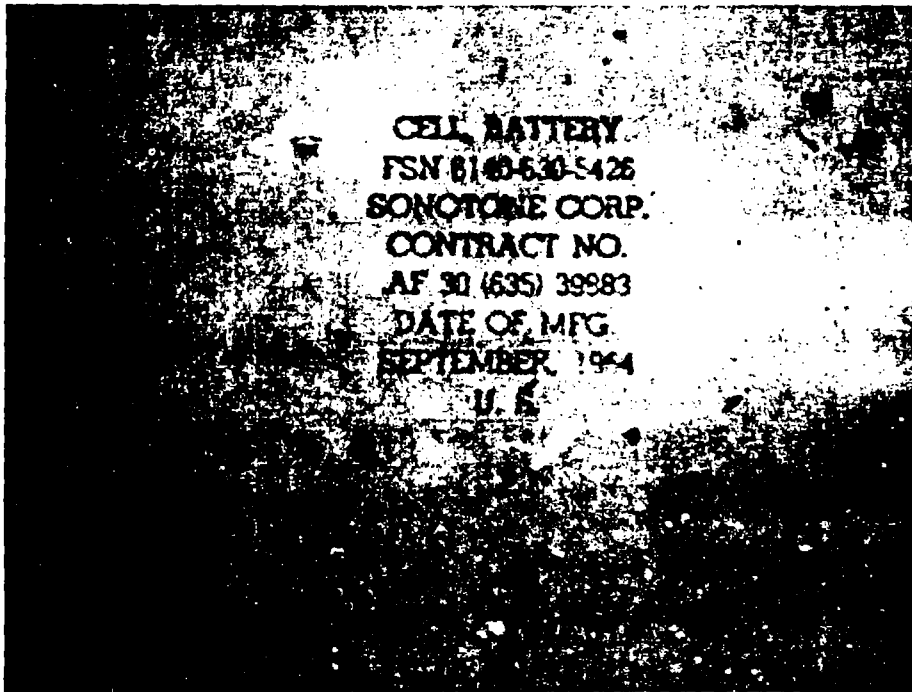
Eight drums under railroad tracks

Photo #9



Nine drums under railroad tracks

Photo #10



Information on battery from battery pile in photo #1

Photo #11



Information on battery from battery pile in photo #1



Photo #12



Information on battery in battery pile from photo #1

Photo #13



Information on box near battery pile

Photo #14



Information on battery in battery pile from photo #1

Photo #15



Samples collected from drum W3TD 002

Photo #16



Samples collected from drum W3TD 003

Photo #17



Sample collected from drum W3TD 001

Photo #18



Samples collected from drum W3TD 015

Photo #19



Sample collected from drum W3TD 009

Photo #20



Sample collected from drum W3TD 010

Photo #21



Sample collected from drum W3TD 053

Photo #22



Sample collected from drum W3TD 040

Photo #23



Drum W3TD 044 three-fourths (3/4) full of battery fibers and a battery cell

Photo #24



Drum W3TD 044 three-fourths (3/4) full of battery fibers and a battery cell

Photo #25



Samples collected from drum W3TD 049

Photo #26



Sample collected from battery W3TD B001 in battery bank

Photo #27



Samples collected from battery W3TD B001 in battery bank

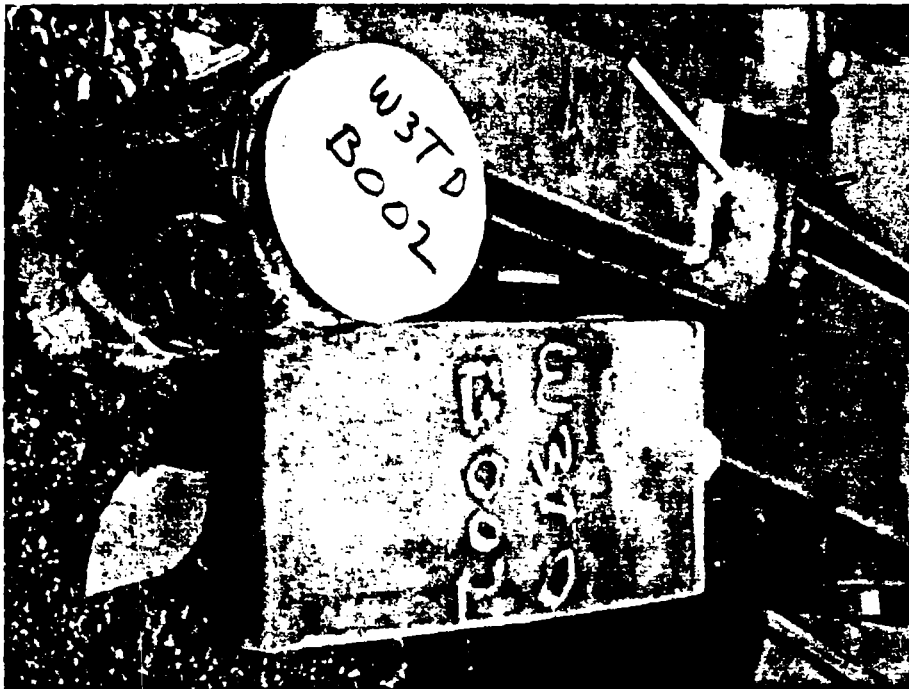


Photo #28



Samples collected from battery W3TD B001 in battery bank

Photo #29



Sample of fibers from battery W3TD B002 in battery pile

Photo #30



Sample collected from battery W3TD B003 in battery pile

Photo #31



Box debris that was in the battery pile